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ABSTRACT

The document contains 27 stories selected for adults who are reading from the second grade to 3.5 grade level. The title of the story, its appropriate grade level, and the author's name are listed for each story. Included with each story are several content-oriented questions of varying formats. (AG)

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STORIES FOR ADULTS

TO READ

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
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A document developed by the participants
of the Adult Basic Education
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FOREWORD

The stories contained in this publication were written by the participants attending the ABE Materials and Teaching Institute at Memphis State University, Memphis, Tennessee, June 18-29, 1973. The first week of the Institute was devoted to the selection, development, and evaluation of materials suitable for ABE students. Dr. Robert Geeslin and Mrs. Carol Geeslin were the consultants for this week's efforts and it is to their credit that these stories were written.

Donnie Dutton
Director of Institute

Billy Glover
Associate Director

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A VISIT TO A FARM

by

Robert Ammons

A city family visited friends in the country. It was the first time that the children had been to a farm.

All the family were very busy while they were in the country. The father and the farmer hunted and fished. The children saw many new things.

In the morning the men went to hunt wild animals. They found a wild turkey. They caught it with a large bag. They caught a fish in the pond.

In the afternoon the men took the children to see the barnyard. They showed the children some farm animals.

The children helped feed the animals. They gave corn to the horses. They gave hay to the cows. They also gave pig-feed to the pigs.

Even the mother had fun that day at the farm.

1. Which of the animals was fed corn?
2. Where was the farm?
3. Tell what the men did in the afternoon.
4. Was the story too hard for you to read, or was it not hard enough?

BILL AND THE DOG

by

David Strong

A big, black dog walked across Bill's yard. Bill was very afraid of the dog. The dog looked so bad, Bill wanted to make the dog go away. Bill found a big stick. Bill threw it at the dog. The dog turned around and looked at Bill. The dog looked like a bear to Bill. The dog's size seemed to grow as Bill backed away. Bill wanted to run. Bill's feet would not go. Bill became more and more afraid. The more Bill was afraid, the more he could not move. The dog started to move toward Bill. Bill began to walk away. As Bill turned to run, he fell. The dog ran at Bill, wagging his tail, and licked Bill on the face.

1. What color was the dog?
2. Why was Bill afraid of the dog?
3. In your own words, tell what the dog did when Bill fell down.
4. What would have been the best thing for Bill to do when he saw the dog?

THE BIRTHDAY PRESENT

by

Don Meacham

It was the baker's grandmother's birthday. The baker ate breakfast and then began to drive his automobile across town. He saw the bus drive down the street. He stopped at a store. He wanted to buy butter, an apple, a chicken, and some milk. He walked to another store to buy his grandmother a present. He asked the woman in the store to see some clothes. He saw a beautiful coat. He got the coat for his grandmother's birthday present. He walked back to his car. He found a ticket on his car. This did not make the baker very happy.

1. What did the baker buy his grandmother for a birthday present?
2. Why did the baker buy the coat for his grandmother's birthday present?
3. In your own words, tell what the baker did after he ate breakfast.
4. Did you enjoy reading the story? Why or why not?

BUILDING A HOUSE

by

Elinor Andrews

Choose the right word. The first one has been done for you.

1. A house can be (<u>built</u>, build).
2. The top of the house is a (root, roof).
3. Strong wood is better than a (stick, sticker).
4. The color of the room is (painter, painted).

Building a house can be a lot of fun and very hard work. I built a house one time and it took me three days.

First, I made the roof! Then I tried to stand it up on four sticks. This would not work! It fell to the ground into little pieces.

So, I tried again. This time I began with the sides. I painted each room one color and the others another. The first room I painted white. Then I put red paint in the white and made pink. Then I put all the colors together and mixed a very funny color. The rooms were pretty.

I finished my roof and put it on top. My house is pretty and it still stands.

1. What color was the first room painted?
2. How many times was the house started?
3. Explain how the funny color was made.
4. Was the house safe to live in?

SUN

by

Wallace Goins

The sun is beautiful today. It makes me feel good. I don't think it will be shining tomorrow. The clouds are moving in fast. Why do they have to cover the sky? Well, God has the answer for all things.

Sometimes I think we all get upset too easily. People don't even have time to look at the sun. Whenever anyone stops rushing, he may see the beautiful scenery from the sun. Everything is beautiful. The fish see the sun more than we do. The sun is shining again. Think of the sun the next time you are rushing around.

1. What is the name of the story?
2. What time is it in the story? Where does the story take place?
3. Tell why people do not see the sun.

AN AIRPLANE TRIP

by

Bennether Brown

Fill in the sentences with one of the words below.

1. [illegible] 2. fly 3. Grandmother 4. Thursday

5. airplane 6. Christmas 7. Wonderland

1. Grandfather and grandmother took an _____ trip.
2. An airplane can _____ high in the sky.
3. Grandfather and grandmother flew to Winter _____.
4. They carried things to keep them _____.
5. _____ replied, "Everything will be beautiful there."
6. They will spend _____ there and come back on _____.

An airplane is very large. It is bigger than an automobile. It can fly high in the sky. Grandfather said, "Let's go for a trip in an airplane. It will be fun." All of us agreed to take this trip. "Where will we go?" asked Grandmother. "Oh, we could go to Winter Wonderland," replied Grandfather. "What will we carry on our trip?" asked Grandfather. Grandmother said, "We will carry snow shoes, a heavy coat, and a fur cap. Oh, just everything to keep us warm, because it will be cold there." "I wonder what we will see there," Grandfather replied. "Everything will be beautiful," said Grandmother. Grandfather said, "We will spend Christmas there and come back on Thursday."

1. How did the people travel?
2. Was this a large airplane?
3. Where did they go on their trip?
4. How many people went on the trip?
5. How did the story begin?
6. Who thought of the trip?

PAYING YOUR BILLS

by

Joyce Lacy

Most people like to pay their bills on time. The bills may be for food or clothes. They may be for an automobile or for lights and water.

It is good to pay bills on time. The people you buy from like to get their money on time. If you do not pay your bills, something bad could happen. Your lights and water may be turned off. Your automobile may be taken away. You may not even have food to eat.

Make sure you always pay your bills on time. Find stores that sell at low cost to you. Buy only things you can afford.

1. What are some of the bills talked about in "Paying Your Bills"?
2. Why do you think people like to pay bills on time?
3. What are two of the reasons you should pay your bills?
4. Do you think it is important to pay your bills on time?

THE PARTY

by

Lois P. Morton

Circle the correct answer. The first one is done for you.

1. A dog can go (bow-wow, mew-mew).
2. A big animal is an (puppy, elephant).
3. Dresses for a party are (old, pretty).
4. A monkey can do (tricks, trick).
5. Children like to play (games, game).

Write the correct work on your paper.

1. Children like a (m, p) _arty.
2. Ann has a (p, b) _uppy.
3. Ann loves her (p, g) _randmother.
4. The children will bring a (t, p) _oy.
5. In her house Ann has a (p, r) _oom.

The children will have a Christmas party. It will be at Ann's house on Elm Street.

Ann's puppy will be put into a room in the house because he will go bow-wow at the funny games. Grandfather Brown and Grandmother Brown cannot come.

Each child may bring a friend and a toy. They can play games which go with pretty dresses.

An elephant will be there for the children to ride. Some will cry for their mothers; others will want to ride the elephant many times. Maybe they will have a monkey, too. He will do tricks with his cup.

THE PARTY (cont.)

1. What is Ann having?
2. What could the monkey have in his cup?
3. Why would the party be outside?
4. Why is the story named "The Party"?

LAST NIGHT

by

Lynda T. Smith

Pick the right word. The first one is done for you.

1. A little child is sometimes called a (kid, bug).
2. When my car will not run, I get (happy, mad).
3. When a person plays a bad trick on you, he is (nice, lowdown).
4. A part of your mouth is your (lip, arm).

I went to see if I could get a drink. But the man told me I was not old enough. He said, "Get lost, Kid!" I got mad, because I turned 18 last week. I just blew my top. I cried, "You lowdown crumb! I'm not a kid! I'll show you!" I got my I.D. and I said, "See, you can give me a drink. You better, or I'll give you a fat lip!" He said, "No way! Stay away from here!"

I stood still. I wanted a drink, and I wanted to talk with my friends in that place. I did not know if I could do anything but go home. And I did not want to go home because of all the work there.

But then I saw another friend coming along. I said,"Sally, let's go down the street and I'll buy you a drink in that new place." She went with me, and we had a ball just the same.

1. How old was the person who wanted a drink?
2. In your own words, tell what happened in this story.
3. Why did the young person get mad?
4. What kind of adult would like to read this story.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

by

Anna B. Ligon

Say each word. Fill in the blanks with the right word. The first one is done for you.

1. Snout is the long part of the elephant's (tail, ear, mouth) mouth.

2. A crumb is a small piece of (food, paper, clay) _____.

3. The elephant's trunk is sometimes used to get (food, foot) _____.

4. Fun is something you have when you (play, fight, sleep) _____.

Read the story. Then answer the questions at the bottom of the page. Check your answers.

Mrs. Geeslin gave a Christmas party for the ABE class. Everyone came dressed as little children, because each one was to play the part of an animal. The one who played his part best could eat the most food, and get a prize.

The elephant's part was played by Anna. She won the prize. She picked up all the food with her snout and kept it in her trunk.

No food was left, not even a crumb was left for the person who played the part of a mouse.

The party was no fun, because only one got to eat; this was the elephant.

Mr. Geeslin helped his wife plan another party. Guess what! No one played the part of the elephant.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY (cont.)

1. Who played the elephant's part?
2. Why did the elephant eat the most food?
3. How do you think the mouse felt when no food was left for him?
4. How was Mr. Geeslin wise in not having someone play an elephant's part?

GRANDMA'S VISIT

by

Alene Boyd

In each sentence, underline the word that would make the sentence correct. The first one is done for you.

1. The baby can do no (right, wrong).
2. Christmas is a (holy day, holiday).
3. Because of the running, the cake was (ruins, ruined).
4. The picnic was (decided, decide).
5. I like my house to be in (order, older).

Read the story to answer the questions below.

Grandma will be home for Christmas. I wonder what we will need to do in order to make her stay a pleasant one. Last year, we seemed to have rubbed her the wrong way. Our holiday was ruined and so was her visit.

An automobile trip has been suggested. Since she is unable to ride for any length of time, I have decided to plan our trip.

On Monday afternoon, we will visit Grandma's sister in the next town.

Tuesday we will take a drive in the country. While there, we will eat lunch. In the afternoon Grandma can visit with old friends there.

The rest of the week, we will rest or let Grandma decide what she would like to do.

GRANDMA'S VISIT (cont.)

How well do you understand what you have read? Answer the questions below to find out.

1. Who was Grandma going to visit in the country?
2. About how long was Grandma's visit?
3. Tell about Grandma's visit.
4. How do you think Grandma will feel about this visit?

THE CABBAGE FLOWER AND THE GOAT

by

Eva Barnett

Grandfather Brown had a garden, with lots and lots of cabbage growing in it. In one corner was a cabbage with beautiful Christmas flowers growing all over it.

One morning a goat got into the garden. At once he began eating cabbage. When he came to the purple cabbage with the Christmas flowers, he stopped still, because that goat loved flowers. He stood there looking for some time.

After breakfast, Grandfather saw that goat. "Bang! Bang!" went the gun. "Baa," cried the goat. Grandfather missed him. Away he ran into the barnyard safely. The cabbage with the Christmas flowers was still growing this morning.

1. Name the animal that got into the garden.
2. What was grandfather doing?
3. What color was this beautiful cabbage?
4. What is the meaning of "stopped still"?
5. Which cabbage did the goat like best?

THE TROUBLE WITH JOHN

by

Ernest Johnson

John was a teacher. He worked part time as a carpenter. He took a job to build a house for a friend. John put off building the house for months. As the time passed, the friend became impatient. He gave John a date by which time the house must be completed. John paid little attention to this. Before he began to build the house, he noticed that he had only seven days to do the job.

This presented a real problem for John. He needed someone to lay the foundation. He knew no one who could do this right away. In looking for someone, he talked with many people. He talked with a co-worker, a teacher. This teacher knew someone who could do the work, but he did not know where this worker could be found. He talked with a policeman. The policeman could not help.

After almost giving up, John talked with the lady who lived next door. She gave him the name of someone who could do the work. John found this person and the day was saved. All began their work. John was very happy.

1. Name the characters in this story.
2. In your own words, tell how John's problem came about.
3. In what ways could John have solved his problem sooner?
4. How could one do a better job than John?

BILL AND THE FISH

by

Richard Bishop

Bill Jones liked to fish very much. He sometimes caught big fish, but he also caught many little ones, too.

Bill would often fish while other men played golf or other sports. Sometimes they would laugh at him because he fished so much. This did not bother Bill. He was too happy fishing.

One day he caught a very big fish! The fish was so big that he could hardly get it from the water.

A man who worked for the newspaper was also fishing that day. He took a picture of Bill and the fish.

The next day the picture was in the newspaper and everyone was proud of Bill. Soon his friends were fishing, too!

1. Did Bill catch a very little fish or a very big fish?
2. Why did Bill fish so much?
3. Tell how you think Bill felt when he caught the very big fish.
4. Would you like to catch a fish like Bill did?

BE SAFE WITH GUNS

by

Jerry Graham

Our friend went hunting today. He saw four deer by a small river. The deer were on the other side and too far away to shoot. I don't like to hunt deer, but I do enjoy duck hunting.

An important thing to know when using a gun is safety rules. A gun can hurt someone badly and even kill. I knew a man who shot his milkman while cleaning his gun. At least that is what he said. So even in the home, guns should be handled with care. Loaded or unloaded, the gun should be considered deadly. Do you always handle guns with care? Don't let your milkman be next!

1. How many deer were seen?
2. Why must we be safe with guns?
3. What does "don't let your milkman be next" mean?
4. Do you think people are safe enough with guns? Why?

LIVE LONGER

by

Sylvia C. Brooks

People nowadays are not taking care of themselves the way they should. More and more are having heart attacks, and the main reason is because we do not give our bodies enough exercise. A body needs the proper amount of rest, food, and exercise to function. Rest is good for the body, but too much rest is bad. Instead of sitting after you eat, take a walk. Instead of riding, walk if it's not too far. Your body is the only one you have, and the only one you'll ever get. So take care of it and treat it right. You might live longer.

1. Name 3 things that the body needs to function.
2. Why is exercise needed?
3. Do you think walking is good exercise?
4. Tell in your own words one way of stopping a heart attack.

THE SURPRISED SURPRISERS

by

Arlene Brewer

In the sentences below draw a line under the correct word. The first one is done for you.

1. My children's mother is my (wife, life).
2. It has been so long (fence, since) I saw you.
3. To give to each other is to (exchange, enough).
4. An (experience, every) is something all of us should have.
5. I know a (secret, speak).
6. To (same, share) is to give to someone.
7. The children (could, couldn't) hear us call "Surprise."
8. Will you (fell, yell) to the children?

The day was near. It was the day for which we had waited for so long. Our four older children were all coming to visit my wife and me. They were bringing their children with them. We had not seen them since they were here last Christmas. How happy all of us would be exchanging experiences. My wife and I had our own secret surprise to share. The older children did not yet know that they had a new baby brother--and a baby sister. We couldn't wait to see that look in their eyes. The plans were made. They would walk in and we would yell, "Surprise." Nothing could happen now.

So the day came. But the surprise was ours. The spring rains had come. The creek was up. It roared so loudly no one could hear the "surprise." Our older children were so far away that we couldn't see

the look of surprise in their eyes--we were the ones who looked surprised!

1. When had we last seen our older children?
2. To exchange is to (give, take, share).
3. The new babies were (one month old, three years old, less than a year old).
4. Did you feel that the older children would be surprised? Why?

LANDING AND FLYING

by

Glenda Long

When learning to fly, we must point out a few steps to follow. The first and most useful point is to follow a bird. They can guide you to the best places to land. A big spot of lighted sawdust is a good place to set down if you have lost contact with your bird teacher. Be very careful not to fly over water unless you are sure you know how to find your way back. Good strong wings can help you land much better than an umbrella. There is no way to furnish rules for the take-off. It must be within. Coming down could be bad.

1. When learning to fly, the best example is to follow a _____.
2. Why is it a good thing to stay away from water when flying?
3. Is an umbrella a good landing tool?
4. If you were sure you knew the art of "take off," do you think you could handle the landing?

BIRTHDAY DINNER

by

Margaret Butler

Mrs. Brown had an idea. Friday would be Ronda's birthday. She thought her class of ten girls would like to prepare a birthday dinner for Ronda. She mentioned the idea to the girls. They were very excited.

Some of the girls asked Mrs. Brown if they could bring some food to help out. She told them not to bring anything except a gift maybe.

Mrs. Brown reminded the girls that a dinner would have to be planned. One of the girls wanted to bake a cake, buy ice cream and pretend that was the dinner. Being their first experience, they thought it would consume too much playing time preparing dinner. That was fine with Mrs. Brown, and they all agreed.

1. What was Mrs. Brown's idea?
2. Explain what had to be done before preparing a dinner.
3. Did you enjoy the story?
4. Write five sentences about the story.

A STORY

by

Robert Williams, Jr.

Mike and Dave wanted a little red wagon for Christmas. The boys went to their mother to tell her of their wishes. "Mom," Mike said, "we want a little red wagon for Christmas." Mom replied, "There are eight other children in the family who will want Christmas gifts. I am afraid a wagon will be too expensive." Mike and Dave were sad. "Dave," Mike said, "let's get a paper route and earn enough money to buy the wagon." Between the two of them, they earned enough money to buy a wagon, a gift for each child, and a large gift for Mom. Mom was so happy she cried. Mike and Dave were happy, too.

1. Mike and Dave had a paper (route, root).
2. The red wagon was (broken, expensive).
3. Mike and Dave gave their mother a (gift, ball).
4. Mother was very (happy, sad).

THE FIRE

by

Ervin Johnson

Dan is a fireman. He works six days a week. A fire broke out in his house. Dan was at the fire department. When he got home, the bedroom and the bathroom were on fire. Dick and Mat were fighting the blaze. After ten minutes they brought the fire under control.

Dan's pet dog, Ed, had turned in the alarm by barking. As the smoke increased, Ed broke out the window pane in Dan's bedroom. Dick and some children in the front yard helped Ed get out of the house.

Fireman Dan and Dick and Mat gave the dog a big pat on the head, and a large bowl of delicious red meat.

1. What happened to Dan's home?
2. Who helped Dan put out the fire?
3. Describe what happened in Dan's home.
4. Who are the main characters?

A FRIEND IN TROUBLE

by

Nelda Harrell

Mrs. Carson sat with her vegetables under the umbrella. Suddenly a voice could be heard. Some men ran through the street with a policeman at their heels.

Had there been a stick-up at the bank around the corner? Had someone had their pocket picked? Just what could all this commotion be about?

Sirens were heard in the distance. "What should I do?" wondered Mrs. Carson. Just at that minute the squad car arrived and Mrs. Carson saw her friend, Mrs. Emmett, standing in the street. Mrs. Carson ran to Mrs. Emmett's side and knew that Mrs. Emmett's purse had been snatched.

The squad car pulled away. Had the right man been caught?

1. Whose purse was snatched?
2. What do you think Mrs. Carson's job is?
3. What do you think is meant by the term "commotion"?
4. How do you think Mrs. Emmett felt when she saw her friend, Mrs. Carson?

CIRCUS TIME

by

Yvonne S. Johnson

The large city near our home has a circus each year. The animals are brought in from the zoo just to add more fun. There are many well-trained animals who perform well each time. This last year a lion, tiger, wolf, and elephant began the show with a dance before bigger and better things started.

There is never a dull moment and the people can hardly wait for show time. These are things which keep people happy in small country towns near a big city. A circus is for all ages. It always brings grandfathers and grandmothers for a visit and to enjoy the fun with the children.

1. Who did the opening dance for the circus last year?
2. Is the circus a treat and something to look forward to for all?
3. Is it right to say that since some animals can dance, others can do tricks also?
4. Do you think a circus is a fun time for both young and old?

TRAVEL

by

Fred Morrison

Airplanes, automobiles, and trains are the three best ways to travel in this beautiful country. The most common way to travel in this country would be the automobile. Most people in our country depend on the automobile. They depend on it to take them to work, to go shopping, and to fill the needs of the average family. The airplane is a more expensive means of travel, but it is also much faster and more comfortable. The train used to be the most common way to travel. In the past few years it has dropped to third place in transportation.

1. What are the 3 best ways to travel in this country?
2. Tell what has happened to the train of today?
3. Why is the car important to travel?
4. Did you enjoy this story?

A SHOPPING TRIP

by

Hazel E. Hall

New Words

interesting usually myself neighbors borrow
o'clock husband

Pick the right answer for each sentence. Use only one answer for each. Write your answers on the blank lines. The first one is done for you.

1. Something one enjoys doing is (sad, dull, interesting) interesting.
2. The girls (never, usually) play together _____.
3. I always get (myself, herself) _____ ready to go.
4. The car on the street is my (neighbors', pilot's) _____ car.
5. To get something from another without paying or stealing is to (borrow, study) _____ it.
6. The time that we usually have dinner is (six o'clock, six feet) _____.
7. The person to whom a lady is married is her (doctor, husband) _____.

A shopping trip is very interesting. Before I go to town I usually have many things to do. After I get the children and myself dressed, I always have to feed the dog and chickens. Sometimes the milkman is late, and the cat is out of milk. When this happens, I have to go next door to my neighbors' house, and ask if I might borrow a little milk until I get back from town.

A SHOPPING TRIP (cont.)

I always have to hurry with my shopping because I must have dinner ready at six o'clock. My husband likes to eat on time.

Pick only one answer. Write it on the line.

1. In the story that you just read, dinner is usually served at (ten o'clock, six o'clock) _____.
2. The children in this story are around the age of (3, 19, 12) _____ years.
3. In your own words, name three things that the writer had to do before going on a shopping trip. _____
_____
4. Do you think the writer of the story used her time well? Yes _____ No _____. Tell why you think your answer is right.

VISIT TO THE ZOO

by

Max Wright

Boys and girls, I am going to give you a slip of paper that will have plans for taking a trip to the zoo. Please read it very carefully and then take it home for your parents to read.

Each of you will need to bring a picnic lunch, umbrella, money for milk, and wear clothing suitable for walking most of the day.

I would like you to choose someone in class that you would like to have as a partner all day. This should keep each of us from getting lost.

As you observe each of the animals, try to notice something different about each of them. When you come to the birds, notice the many colors of their feathers.

It will be after dark when we return to school. Don't forget to ask your parents to pick you up.

WATER SAFETY

by

Sonya Hall

With the coming of the summer months, many people like to go swimming. Water sports of all kinds are fun if rules of safety are learned. Most towns have classes which teach swimming and water safety. Families often go to classes together so every member can take part in water sports without the fear of getting hurt.

Many children and adults enjoy learning about boating and water skiing. Learning new sports is fun for most people. They often like to teach their friends how to enjoy their sports. Good skills and safety rules are needed to make water sports fun for everyone.

1. What two things are needed for water safety?
2. Why is water safety important?
3. In your own words, tell the class what you read about water safety.
4. Do you think the story was interesting?

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